

# Bud, Not Buddy

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Sharing with Parents

April 13, 2008

Dear Fourth Grade Community

First, many teachers were impressed with not only with the quality of the fourth grade projects at project fair but also there "love" for their topic and enthusiasm for learning and sharing. Outstanding job!

The students have finished their final project for the book Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis. The assignment began by brainstorming characteristics that we look for in friends. From those characteristics we discussed which ones Bud has and found scenes from the book that demonstrate that quality. From this point the students took ownership of the project. In groups, they made a story board of their scene, shot their animation with Legos, wrote a narration, and lastly assembled the final movie. Overall the finished movies are rich in detail and emotion. Enjoy the movies and celebrate their triumphs on this project.

In sharing this book with the parents the students will be doing something different from the last "Pages and Pastries". Instead of gathering as a one big group for an evening, the students will be interviewing their parent(s) about the book. The students will have available a voice recorder (MP3 player). By recording the interviews the students can focus on the discussion and not worry about writing answers/notes. The recorder will allow them to play back the discussion. This interview will take about 10 to 15 minutes. The students and I have prepared questions that will hopefully serve as a starting point to a discussion about the book. Feel free to ask your child questions. After recording the interview, the students will write a reflection piece on the interview/discussion. The reflection should go beyond the answers to the interview questions and more into a comparison of the parents' view of the book versus the student's view of the book.

I wanted to give this assignment before break because, for some families, vacation time will be the most convenient time to have a discussion about the book (on a plane to Florida or car ride to Washington D.C.) Students will be given homework time to complete the reflection and interview. Please see the attached handout for complete details of the assignment and questions.

In advance, thank you for taking the time to read the book and sharing your "experiences" with Bud. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at school. I look forward to reading the reflections and listening to the interviews.

Have a wonderful vacation,

Mr. Ferguson

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## Overview

For this assignment students will be having a discussion/interview with their parent or somebody that has read Bud, Not Buddy. During the discussion students will share their feeling and thoughts about Bud and his adventure while listening to another reader's view point. Following the discussion, the students will write a reflection piece. The reflection piece should highlight the important ideas of the discussion along with what they have gained from the discussion.

Due Date: May 4<sup>th</sup>

## Questions:

1. Did you enjoy the book?
2. What are some of the events that stood out to you?
3. What was your favorite part? least favorite part?
4. What was your favorite characteristic of Bud?
5. Do you think Bud is a good person?
6. What is your opinion of Mr. Calloway?
7. What do you think of the ending?

## Step by Step

1. Find a time with your mom/dad to interview and discuss Bud, Not Buddy. The interview should take at least 10 minutes. (If your mom/dad did not read the book, you can interview Mr. Johnk, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Woo and etc. Check with me first and I will arrange a person.)
2. Interview your mom/dad. Ask them questions from the list, but remember these questions are only a starting point to your discussion. If Record this interview/discussion on the MP3 player.
3. Playback and listen to the interview. While you are listening, feel free to notes or record your parent's answers to these questions.
4. After listening to the discussion, think about:
  - Interesting ideas and questions that your mom/dad shared
  - Favorite parts
  - Emotions while reading the book
5. Write a reflection. The reflection should be typed. (If you need a computer to type your paper, please see me ahead of time)

## Important Notes:

- You do not have to work on this over break, you will be given homework time when we return.
- Computers/laptops are available if you need to borrow one
- You do not have to record the interview but it will be extremely helpful

## Rubric: Reflection

CATEGORY	BELOW	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS
Presentation	* Frequent grammatical and spelling errors that distract the reader * Font and layout is distracting	* Some grammatical and spelling errors * Font and layout is presentable	* Minor or no grammatical and spelling errors * Layout is engaging and clean
Idea	* Did not include the parent's view and thoughts * No personal thought or reflections * No main idea	* Includes the parent's view and thoughts * Some personal thought or reflections * Captures the main idea of the discussion	* Includes and compares the parent's view and thoughts * Includes personal thought or reflections * Captures the essence of the discussion
Voice/Word Choice	*The reflection does not establish a mood in the reader *No voice in the work	*Creates a mood that partially engages the reader *A voice is present through most of the piece	* A clear mood is established that is engaging * Has a voice that is unique to the author